

Bill No. 23-05  
Concerning: Domestic Violence  
Coordinating Council – Establishment  
Revised: July 21, 2005 Draft No. 2  
Introduced: July 26, 2005  
Expires: January 26, 2007  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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By: Councilmembers Silverman and Subin

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**AN ACT** to:

- (1) establish a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council with certain requirements regarding composition, terms, duties, voting, meetings, and staffing; and
- (2) generally amend the law governing coordination of County, State, federal, and community efforts relating to domestic violence, including prevention, intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, correctional, and advocacy efforts.

By adding

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 2, Administration  
Section 2-59, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

**Section 1. Sec. 2-59 is added as follows:**

**2-59. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.**

(a) *Definition.* In this section “Coordinating Council” means the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

(b) *Established.* There is a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

(c) *Composition and terms of members.*

(1) The Coordinating Council has 15 members.

(2) The County Council requests the following individuals to serve as ex officio members of the Coordinating Council:

A. The Administrative Judge for District 6 of the Maryland District Court or designee of the Administrative Judge;

B. The Administrative Judge for the Montgomery County Circuit Court or designee of the Administrative Judge;

C. The State’s Attorney for Montgomery County or designee of the State’s Attorney;

D. The Regional Director of the Division of Parole and Probation, Maryland Department of Public Safety and Corrections or designee of the Regional Director; and

E. The County Sheriff or designee of the County Sheriff.

(3) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive should appoint the following individuals to serve as ex officio members of the Coordinating Council:

A. A member or designee of the County Council, selected by the Council President

B. The Chief of Police or designee of the Chief of Police;

C. The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services or designee of the Director;

D. The Executive Director of the Commission for Women or designee of the Executive Director; and

E. The Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation or designee of the Director.

(4) Subject to confirmation by the County Council, the County Executive must appoint the following individuals to serve 3-year terms on the Coordinating Council:

A. An attorney with experience representing victims of domestic violence;

B. 3 members of the public with professional experience dealing with domestic violence issues; and

C. A member of the public who is either a current or former victim of domestic violence.

(d) *Voting, officers, meetings, and compensation.*

(1) All members of the Coordinating Council are voting members.

(2) The Coordinating Council must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members to serve 1-year terms.

(3) The Coordinating Council must meet at least 4 times each year.

(4) Section 2-148 does not apply to members appointed under subsection (c)(2) and (3).

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (6), a member must serve without compensation.

(6) A member may request reimbursement for mileage and dependent care costs at rates established by the County.

(e) *Duties.* The Coordinating Council must:

(1) Advise the County Executive, County Council, and department directors on policies, programs, and legislation necessary to prevent domestic violence and help victims and their families;

- 56 (2) Promote and facilitate an effective community-wide response to  
57 domestic violence, including a well-coordinated, multi-disciplinary  
58 approach to all programs serving victims of domestic violence and  
59 their families;
- 60 (3) Coordinate with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence  
61 and all other County, State, federal, and non-governmental agencies,  
62 committees, boards, commissions, and organizations that operate,  
63 monitor, or coordinate domestic violence programs or services in the  
64 County to maximize the effectiveness of these programs and  
65 services;
- 66 (4) Develop recommendations to improve the coordination and  
67 effectiveness of County, State, federal, and non-governmental efforts  
68 regarding domestic violence, including prevention, intervention,  
69 treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, correctional, and advocacy  
70 efforts;
- 71 (5) Cooperate with the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program  
72 (VASAP) administered by the Department of Health and Human  
73 Services and any other relevant departments, agencies, committees,  
74 boards, commissions, and organizations to periodically review the  
75 quality and sufficiency of programs and facilities available to  
76 domestic violence victims, offenders, and their children throughout  
77 the County;
- 78 (6) Obtain and evaluate statistical data, reports, and other information  
79 related to domestic violence, including information regarding  
80 innovative efforts by other governmental and non-governmental  
81 entities, as necessary to implement the requirements of this section;  
82 and

(7) Subject to subsection (f), advocate for policies or legislation at the County, State, and federal levels that would improve efforts to address domestic violence issues, including prevention, intervention, treatment, law enforcement, prosecution, correctional, and advocacy efforts.

(f) *Advocacy.* When engaging in any advocacy work at the State or federal levels, the Coordinating Council must coordinate and cooperate with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

(g) *Annual Report.* The Coordinating Council must submit to the County Executive and the County Council an annual report on its activities, findings, and recommendations.

(h) *Staff.*

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Chief Administrative Officer must provide appropriate staff to the Coordinating Council.

(2) The Chief Administrative Officer must consult with the individuals identified in subsection (c)(2) and (3) to determine the staffing needs of the Coordinating Council.

(3) The Chief Administrative Officer may authorize an individual identified in subsection (c)(2) to provide staff to the Coordinating Council.

**Sec. 2. Transition.** The County Executive may stagger the initial terms of the members appointed under Section 2-59(c)(4) so that approximately one-third of the terms of these members expire each year.

*Approved:*

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Thomas E. Perez, President, County Council

Date

111 *Approved:*

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Douglas M. Duncan, County Executive

Date

113 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

Date